

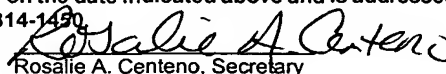
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Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1450


Re: New U.S. Patent Application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) – Robert B. Wirtz

EXHAUST MUFFLER

Sir:

1. Please find enclosed herewith for filing: 11 pages specification, 4 pages claims (20), 1 page abstract and 4 pages drawings (11 Figures) in support of the above identified application.
2. It is respectfully requested that this application be granted the priority date of August 2, 2002, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application Nr. 102 35 408.1. A certified copy of said German patent application is submitted herewith.
3. Appropriate fees will be submitted with a subsequent submission.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert W. Becker
Registration No. 26,255

ROBERT W. BECKER & ASSOCIATES
707 Highway 66 East, Suite B
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

Telephone: (505) 286-3511
Telefax: (505) 286-3524

RWB:rac

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